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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/611,671	07/02/2003	Tod R. Smeal	034536-0407	5378
22428	7590	11/06/2006	EXAMINER	
FOLEY AND LARDNER LLP			XIE, XIAOZHEN	
SUITE 500			ART UNIT.	
3000 K STREET NW			PAPER NUMBER	
WASHINGTON, DC 20007			1646	

DATE MAILED: 11/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/611,671

Applicant(s)

SMEAL ET AL.

Examiner

Xiaozhen Xie

Art Unit

1646

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-103 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-21, 23, 24 and 27-103 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 22, 25 and 26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 February 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Application, Amendments, And/Or Claims

The Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed 5 January 2004 and 29 June 2004 has been entered. Applicant's amendment of the specification filed 15 December 2003 has been entered.

Election/Restriction

Applicant's election of Group III, claims 21-26, and species "SEQ ID NO: 4" in the reply received on 25 August 2006 is acknowledged. Because Applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Claims 1-103 are pending. Claims 1-20 and 27-103 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Claims 21-26 are under examination to the extent they read on elected species.

Claim Objections

Claims 21, 23 and 24 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claims 21, 23 and 24 recite non-elected invention.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

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Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 22, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claims are directed to non-statutory subject matter. Because they do not require that the antibody be isolated, they encompass products of nature, which are not patentable. This rejection could be overcome by addition of the limitation wherein the antibody is isolated.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Jackson et al. (US 2005/0100554 A1, which has a provisional filing date on 14 February 2002). Jackson et al. teach an antibody directed against an amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO: 53) that comprises the sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 4 of the instant application (see alignment). Jackson et al. teach that the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 53 corresponds to ARHGEF2 (pp. 64), which is also known as GEF-H1. Jackson et al. teach that such antibodies can be generated using peptides containing antigenic regions as immunogens (pp. 37, line 19 through pp. 38, line 18). Since Jackson et al. teach polyclonal antibodies to a peptide that comprises SEQ ID NO: 4, it would be

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expected that such antibodies would specifically bind to the amino acids comprising SEQ ID NO: 4. Therefore, Jackson et al. anticipate the instant claim.

Additional Reference, Cited as of Interest

Ren et al. (J. Biol. Chem., 1998, Vol. 273(52), pp. 34954-34960) teach an anti-GEF-H1 polyclonal antibody raised against a GST-GEF-H1 fusion protein (amino acid residues 691-891 of GEF-H1) in rabbits (pp. 34955, 4th paragraph in Experimental Procedures). SEQ ID NO: 4 of the instant application corresponds to amino acid residues 55-72 of GEF-H1.

Conclusion

NO CLAIM IS ALLOWED.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Xiaozhen Xie whose telephone number is 571-272-5569. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary B. Nickol, Ph.D. can be reached 571-272-0835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Xiaozhen Xie, Ph.D.
October 20, 2006

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary B. Nickol".

GARY B. NICKOL, PH.D.
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600